

REMARKS

In the Office Action of October 23, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 25-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) "as being unpatentable over Schleppenbach in view of Kashi." More specifically, the Examiner maintains that Schleppenbach discloses a monolithic Braille cell cap wherein the cell cap covers a plurality of Braille cells. The Examiner admits, however, that Schleppenbach fails to disclose the cell cap having a plurality of walls for encasing the Braille pins. Rather, the Examiner relies on the Kashi reference for a teaching of "a cell cap having a plurality of walls, which encases the pins." In view of the claim amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

None of the references cited by the Examiner, taken either individually or in any possible combination, disclose the inventive features of the claimed invention. The claimed invention is a Braille assembly wherein a single monolithic cell cap serves to encase a plurality of individual Braille cells. Each Braille "cell" consists of an array of six or eight pins that make up an individual Braille character. Thus, by providing a monolithic cell, the reader is presented with a common surface for all characters. This eliminates the cell to cell unevenness found in prior art Braille displays.

In accordance with the claimed invention, both the cell cap and an associated frame are provided with a plurality of sets of tactile pinholes. Namely, both the frame and the cell cap support enough tactile pins to form a number of individual

Braille characters to thereby eliminate character to character unevenness. Additionally, the cell cap is attached to the underlying frame so as to encase the tactile pins and protect them from damage. Applicants respectfully submit that these features cannot be found in Schleppenbach, Kashi, or any combination thereof.

Schleppenbach discloses a top plate member 22 of a Braille cell cap, wherein the top plate member 22 is secured over upstanding pins 34 (note Fig. 2). The top plate member 22 is connected to a midplate member 26 and a circuit board 28 by way of fasteners 26. See Figs. 1 and 2; Paragraph 0036. Unlike the present invention, Schleppenbach does not disclose a monolithic Braille cap that encases the Braille cell pins. Rather, Schleppenbach discloses placing a sheet, the top plate member 22, over the cell pins. The monolithic cell cap of the present invention, however, encases the cell pins, so that the pins are more protected. Schleppenbach likewise does not disclose the use of a frame with an angled wall, wherein the wall gives further support to the plurality of pins.

Kashi discloses separate support frames 23 and caps 28 that are used for individual Braille cells 18. Thus, neither the frame 23 nor the caps 28 in Kashi are monolithic, nor do they span a plurality of cells. Kashi, therefore, suffers from the same drawbacks present in the prior art. Namely, unevenness created by the spacing between adjacent cells. Any combination of Schleppenbach and Kashi would, therefore, still be missing the key inventive features of the present invention: a Braille

assembly wherein a single monolithic cell cap serves to encase a plurality of individual Braille cells.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are free of the prior art and are otherwise in a condition for allowance. Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1667.

By: /Michael J. Colitz, III/
Michael J. Colitz, III
Registration No. 37,010
Holland & Knight LLP
Suite 4100
100 North Tampa Street
Tampa, Florida 33602-3644
Telephone: 813/227-8500
Facsimile: 813/229-0134
Email: ptotpa@hklaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Amendment B was filed with the Commissioner for Patents using the USPTO's EFS-Web system on this 23nd day of April, 2008.

By: /Michael J. Colitz, III/
Michael J. Colitz, III

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